

July 8, 2020

The Marine Security Guard

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin)

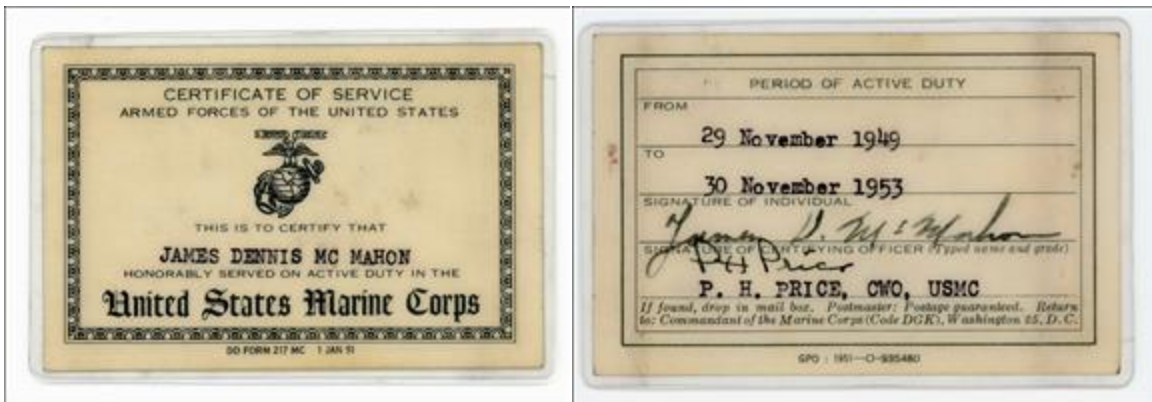
Since 1948 the United States Marine Corps has been tasked with providing security at American embassies, consulates, and other various US Government offices. Formally known as the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, the Group is battalion sized, and has the MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) of 8156. Earning the title of Marine is an honor of its own, but to serve as an Embassy Guard is an honor only a select few hold at any given time.



Donated by Mr. James D. McMahon Jr., PhD, in name/honor of his father, this uniform was used by McMahon Sr. while serving as a Marine Security Guard (MSG). McMahon was from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the USMC in 1949 and served at the Philadelphia Naval Yard, Naval Air Technical Training Center - Memphis, and finally as an Embassy Security Guard in Bogota, Colombia before being honorably discharged in 1953.



The face of America at installations across the globe, a Marine in uniform is many times the first thing of “America” that is encountered or “seen” by individuals who may never set foot in our Nation. During times of strife, an American seeking refuge at an embassy, it is a United States Marine that greets them and ensures they find their way home. For citizens of the host-country, the Marines serving at the embassy exemplify the very best of America.



The duties of an Embassy Guard are protection and defense, including classified information and equipment along with personnel and property of the United States of America.

Prior to being assigned to their post (Embassy or Installation), the MSG candidate undergoes specific training that will prepare them for their assignment. This training is completed at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA. After completing training, the MSG candidate can expect to serve a three year tour of duty, upon completion, some MSGs continue to serve in similar roles.

There are a number of historical events that involve US Embassies and Consulates. The Marines assigned to MSG duty not only represent the USMC and Nation, but they stand ready to accomplish their mission, “In Every Clime and Place.”